GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2039
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2002
ACQUISITION OF TEMPLE
C. SREENIVAASAN;M.H. AMBAREESH;V. SAROJA;V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a)whether there is any proposal for taking over the management of some ancient temples in the country including Arunalachaeswarar at Tiruvannamalai in Tamil Nadu by ASI for better conservation and development of tourism potential;

(b)If so, the details thereof;

(c)whether the Government are aware about strong protest from the public and certain States against the proposed move; and

(d)If so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a)&(b)No, Sir. Archaeological Survey of India does not intend to interfere with the management ofreligious activities of ancient temples which are under worship in the country. Only, preliminary notification has been issued on 21.9.2002 under section 4(1) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 by the Central Government expressing its intention to protect the Arunachaleshwarar temple to take care of the structural repairs, chemical preservation, environmental development and objections have been invited from the public.

(c)Yes, Sir.

(d)The representations received from the public and the State Government are being examined by the Central Government.